

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## **Emergency Assistance Program (EA)**

Fiscal Year 2013, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

May 8, 2013



**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 3, SFY 2013**

During the third quarter of FY13, 2,510 families applied for Emergency Assistance, 35 percent of the fiscal year-to-date applicants. Of the Quarter 3 applicants, 951 families entered an EA shelter or motel, while another 83 families chose HomeBASE household assistance as an alternative to shelter. The percentage of EA placements to applications was 41 percent for Quarter 3 and 51 percent for the fiscal year-to-date. This serves as a conservative proxy for the percentage of families determined EA eligible that does not account for families who may have been eligible for EA but refused a placement and includes families who did not complete their EA applications or provide required verifications.

Most families entering EA shelter/motels (57%) were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while eviction was the reasons for homelessness for 17 percent of families and domestic violence for another 12 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, most (62%) were in irregular housing situations. Fifteen percent of these families were living in situations unfit for human habitation, and another 15 percent were experiencing health and safety problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

The EA caseload continued to decline during the third quarter, a trend that began in November 2012 when DHCD began issuing Massachusetts Rental Assistance Voucher Program (MRVP) housing subsidies to a limited number of families staying in EA shelter and motels. The EA system ended the quarter with a caseload of 3,221 families, a 13.1 percent decrease since the beginning of the fiscal year and a 12.7 percent caseload drop since January 1, 2013. Because the EA shelter system is at capacity, the declining caseload was accompanied with a large drop in the number of families staying in overflow EA motel units. At the end of the Quarter 3, there were 1,218 families in EA motels (37.8 percent of the total EA caseload). The population of families staying in EA motels dropped by 24.7 percent drop since the beginning of FY13 and 28.3 percent since the beginning of the Quarter 3.

Of the 1,431 families exiting EA during the quarter, 414 (29%) left with an MRVP voucher. 344 of the families receiving an MRVP (24% of total exits) left the EA system with additional support from HomeBASE Household Assistance, while another 569 families (40%) left EA with HomeBASE household assistance only.

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**EA Applications and Entries**

All Applications	SFY 2013 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2013			SFY 2013 Year to Date
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Families Applying to EA	2,510	2,300	957	769	872	7,098
Families Entering EA Shelter or HomeBASE	1,030	1,111	361	332	337	3,630
Families Entering EA Shelter	951	975	338	301	312	3,189
% of EA Eligible Entering Shelter	92%	88%	94%	91%	93%	88%
Families Entering HomeBASE	83	134	25	31	27	443
% of Eligible Entering HB	8%	12%	6%	9%	7%	12%

**Note:** Data are an unduplicated count of families applying for EA. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

**Sources:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

**EA Health & Safety Assessments**

	SYF 2013 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2013			SFY2013 Year to Date
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
H&S Assessment Referrals to DCF	563	520	215	159	189	1,868
Families Determined at Risk	469	423	185	128	156	1,468
% Referrals at Risk	83%	81%	86%	81%	83%	79%
Shelter Diversions	94	97	30	31	33	400
% Referrals Diverted	17%	19%	14%	19%	17%	21%

**Source:** DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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**EA Shelter Entries by Region**  
**Quarter 3, SFY13**

Regional Office	SFY 2013 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2013			Year to Date	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>All Offices</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>3,189</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boston	243	26%	256	80	76	87	778	24%
Brockton	154	16%	119	61	38	55	423	13%
Fall River	5	1%	10	2	3	0	38	1%
Fitchburg	4	<1%	12	1	1	2	24	1%
Framingham	30	3%	24	7	15	8	89	3%
Greenfield	7	1%	9	3	3	1	27	1%
Holyoke	44	5%	44	16	13	15	165	5%
Hyannis	16	2%	17	7	3	6	49	2%
Lawrence	48	5%	60	22	13	13	189	6%
Lowell	37	4%	30	16	11	10	158	5%
Malden	68	7%	69	24	21	23	193	6%
New Bedford	23	2%	20	7	9	7	71	2%
North Shore (Salem)	36	4%	44	15	10	11	175	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	1	<1%	1	0	1	0	4	<1%
Plymouth	5	1%	6	3	1	1	20	1%
Revere	74	8%	79	26	25	23	236	7%
Southbridge	2	<1%	2	1	0	1	8	<1%
Springfield	122	13%	124	36	47	39	391	12%
Taunton	11	1%	11	6	4	1	35	1%
Worcester	21	2%	38	5	7	9	116	4%

**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

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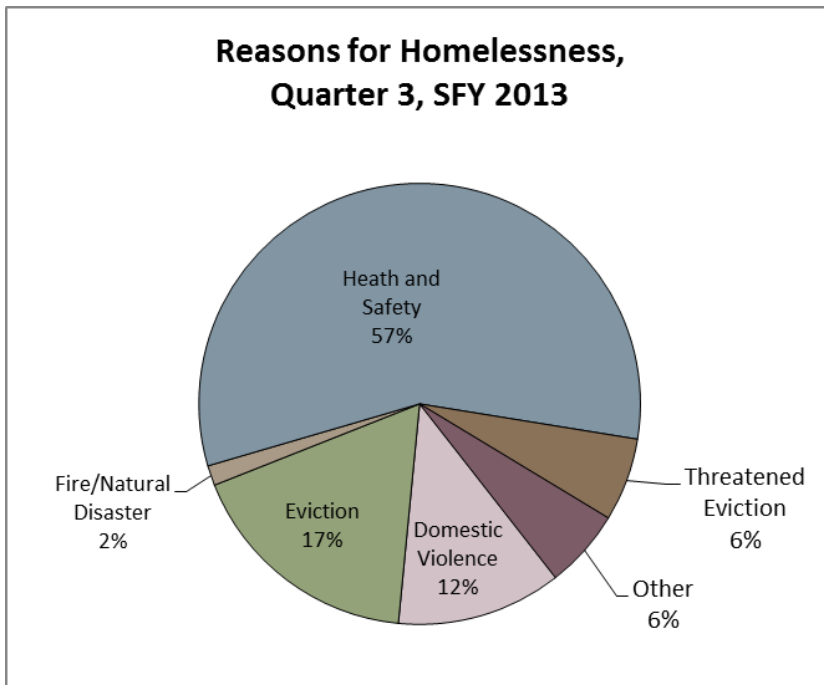
**Reason for Homelessness,  
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2013 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2013			SFY 2013 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>3,189</b>	<b>100%</b>
Domestic Violence	115	12%	128	45	26	44	404	13%
Eviction	166	17%	177	64	58	44	660	21%
Fire/Natural Disaster	14	1%	19	7	4	3	46	1%
Health and Safety	543	57%	593	191	175	177	1,443	45%
Asked to Leave	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	231	7%
Overcrowding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	184	6%
Threatened Eviction - Unauthorized Tenant	58	6%	2	14	20	24	60	2%
Other	55	6%	56	17	18	20	161	5%

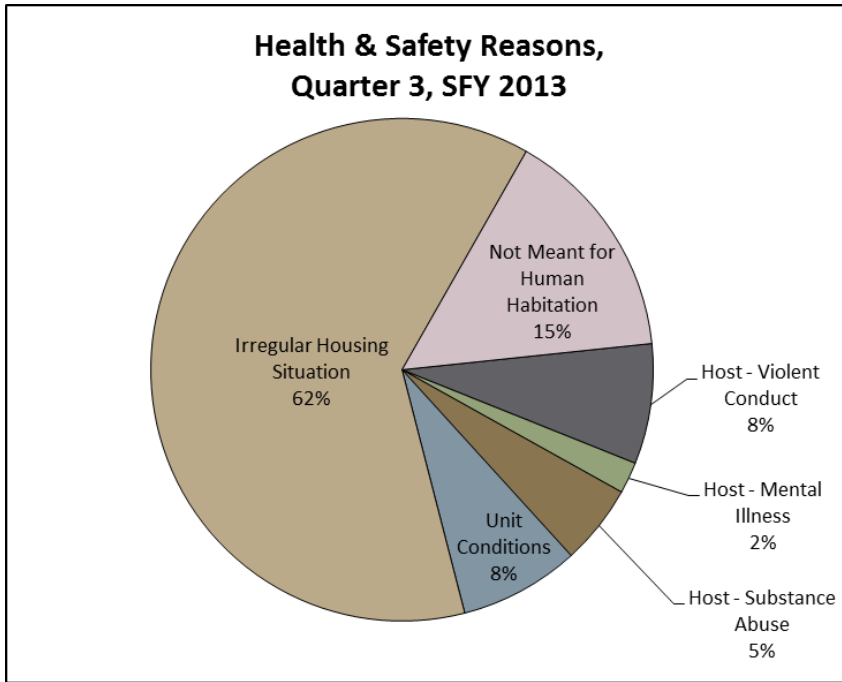
**Notes:**

EA eligibility changes were implemented in September 2012 that eliminated "asked to leave" and "overcrowded" categories. "Threatened Eviction – Unauthorized Tenant" was added as an eligibility category in December 2012.

**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit data.



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### Shelter Exits

	SFY 2013 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2013			Year to Date	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total Shelter/Motel Exits</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>100%</b>
Exiting with HomeBASE Only	569	40%	420	230	272	67	1,210	34%
Exiting with MRVP Only	70	5%	13	14	19	37	83	2%
Exiting with HomeBASE and MRVP	344	24%	134	144	129	71	478	13%

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**Shelter Costs**

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 3 SFY 2013 Daily Usage	% of Total Daily Usage	Contracted Units	Quarter3 Average Days in EA	Average Daily Rate	Quarter 3 Average Cost Per Family
Shelter (Congregate and Scattered)	2,023	58%	2,023	229	\$117	\$26,793
Motel	1,438	42%	.	232	\$80	\$18,560
<b>All Families</b>	<b>3,461</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,023</b>			
Difference from Previous Quarter	-332					
% Change from Previous Quarter	-8.8%					

**Notes:**

Shelter utilization is the daily number of contracted units.

Motel usage data indicate the average daily number of EA families staying in motels during the quarter.

Average length of stay was calculated using length of stay for families who exited shelter during the quarter and families who were still in shelters at the end of the quarter.

**Sources:** DHCD Management Report, DCHD Daily Entry Data, and BEACON Data Warehouse.

**Shelter Diversion Costs and Savings**

	Quarter 3 Families Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	Diversion Cost Per Family	Quarter 3 Total Diversion Cost	Average Shelter Cost Per Family	Quarter 3 Savings
Shelter Diversions	83	\$4,000	\$332,000	\$22,557	\$1,540,231

**Notes:**

Diversion costs assume that all families receiving Household Assistance use the maximum \$4,000 benefit.

Average shelter costs are based on an EA average length of stay of 229 days at a daily rate of \$98.5 per day.

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**Housing Status of Families  
Receiving HomeBASE Rental Assistance**

<b>HomeBASE Rental Assistance Housing Status</b>	<b># of Families</b>	<b>% of HB Families</b>
Total Families Receiving HB Rental Assistance in FY12	7,201	100%
Families Still Receiving Rental Assistance	6,331	88%
Families No Longer Receiving Rental Assistance	870	12%
Chose not to Recertify or Voluntarily Left	259	30%
Moved to Subsidized Housing	176	20%
Violated Program/Lease Requirement or Fraud	137	16%
Moved Out of State	121	14%
Is No Longer Eligible	44	5%
Changed Program Type	29	3%
Evicted	16	2%
Deceased	9	1%
Other	25	9%

**Note:** Data indicates families still receiving HomeBASE rental assistance through May 7, 2012.

**Source:** DHCD, TRACKER database.